

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:179

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011

CASES OF ROAD RAGE

Kataria Shri Lal Chand;Singh Shri Uday Pratap

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any provision exists for the prosecution of cases of road rage under the criminal laws;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the manner in which the culprits of such crimes are prosecuted;
- (c) the number of cases of road rage reported in the country in the last one year including in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and persons, killed/ injured in such incidents and culprits arrested during the said period, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to bring any amendment in the existing laws to contain aggressive driving and to classify road rage as a separate crime; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to contain the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 179 FOR 08.03.2011.

(a) to (e): There is no definition of `Road Rage` either in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 or in the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Road rage is the commonly used phrase for dangerous/violent or angry behaviour by a driver of an automobile or a motor vehicle. Such behaviour might include rude gestures, verbal insults, making threats, dangerous driving in a threatening manner etc. Road rage can lead to collisions, altercations and assaults, resulting in injuries and even deaths. It can also be seen as endangerment of public safety. All these offences are adequately dealt with under the relevant provisions of the IPC and Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

`Police` and `Public Order` are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law enforcement agencies as also for protecting the life and property of the citizens. The Union Government, however, attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of crime and therefore, has continued to urge to the State Governments/UT Administrations to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and take such measures as are necessary for prevention and control of crime.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which compiles data on crimes in the country under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL) as reported to it by the State Governments/ UT Administrations, does not maintain specific information relating to incidents of `Road Rage`. However, Delhi Police has provided the following data relating to `road rage` cases:

Year	No. of cases registered	No. of persons killed	No. of persons injured
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2007	24	1	21
2008	48	-	42
2009	25	-	26
2010	20	-	29

(up to 30.11.2010)

There is no proposal to bring any amendment in the existing laws to classify `Road Rage` as a separate crime. However, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, which administers the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, had introduced a Bill in May, 2007 in the Parliament for amendment of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, including enhancement of penalties for various offences like dangerous driving, driving at excessive speed and drunken driving. The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee had also examined the Bill and agreed to the proposal to enhance penalties.